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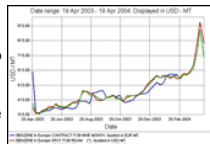
**05 Aug 13 15:45** Europe MTBE trades at \$1,175/tonne FOB AR  
**05 Aug 13 14:55** ARA Aug styrene valued at \$1,745-1,770/tonne  
**05 Aug 13 14:51** ARA Aug benzene valued at \$1,245-1,270/tonne  
**05 Aug 13 10:40** Asia propylene prices firmer on tight supply

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##### **20 Mar 13 - ICIS launches the World Crude Report general methodology consultation**

ICIS launches the World Crude Report general methodology consultation [more >](#)

##### **15 Feb 13 - ICIS is launching a new methodology consultation process across all markets**

ICIS is launching a new methodology consultation process across all markets, with immediate effect [more >](#)

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# 12th October 2012

## Acetone (US Gulf)

Editor John Dietrich, [john.dietrich@icis.com](mailto:john.dietrich@icis.com)

CONTRACT PRICES						
Click for Price History			Price Range		One year ago	USD/MT
DEL TRUCKS OCT	US CTS/LB	- 4.00	58.00-62.00	- 6.00	59.00-63.00	1278.68-1366.86
DEL BARGES (MMA) SEP	US CTS/LB	n/c	45.50-45.50	n/c	61.00-61.00	1003.10-1003.10

SPOT PRICES						
Click for Price History			Price Range		Four weeks ago	USD/MT
FOB EXPORT	US CTS/LB	+2.00	44.00-48.00	+2.00	42.00-46.00	970-1058

**NOTE: for full details on the criteria ICIS pricing uses in making these price assessments visit [www.icispricing.com](http://www.icispricing.com) and click on "methodology".**

### US October truck acetone falls

US October truck acetone prices fell by an average of 7.7% during the week ended 12 October on a mixed supply situation.

Sources said the fall in October was hard to pinpoint to one key factor, with several citing a barge of material arriving or on its way.

Some distributors and producers said a barge of material in the mid-40s cents/lb on an FOB basis had arrived early in the month.

As a result, those buyers were able to move material in the mid-50s cents/lb on a discounted basis and still make a healthy profit, pushing pre-discount prices into the assessed range.

Other sources said the barge is still on the water, and that the buyers are being forced to aggressively sell material in order to make room for the imported material.

However, with operating rates still weak because of softness in co-product phenol demand, several distributors said supply is still tight.

These distributors said buyers have been more disciplined and are taking advantage of sellers being overly competitive in order to move down acetone prices.

In the US barge contract market, no settlements have been reached, but producers expect the October price to increase.

Two producers cited the rise in feedstock refinery-grade propylene (RGP).

Spot prices have increased by 5-6 cents/lb (\$110-132/tonne, €85-102/tonne) in the past five weeks.

Additionally, the producers said that increase in RGP was not factored into the September settlement, so it needs to be fully accounted for in the October agreement.

### Spot acetone inches up on tight supply

US spot acetone prices moved higher by 2 cents/lb during the week, tracking tight supply and higher feedstock costs.

Sources said material for export into Asia has been almost non-existent because of lower prices in the region, but that Latin America continues to buy some product.

A producer and trader said that much of the increase can be attributed to higher RGP prices and steady demand for spot parcels.

Prices for spot acetone in China widened during the week, falling by \$10/tonne on the low end and gaining \$5/tonne on the high end.

Supply remains tight because of several plant outages, and buying interest is weak for deep-sea cargoes.

### Feedstocks

US spot benzene prices fell by 15-20 cents/gal during the week as supply appears set to improve and demand remains softer than expected.

However, benzene spot prices are still well above October contract levels, which could portend an increase in the November contract.

US spot RGP prices gained 0.5-1.5 cents/lb during the week, tracking tight supply because of lower production.

Trading was thin during the week, but October contracts were settled at a gain of 1.5 cents/lb.

(\$1 = €0.77)

**This week on ICIS at [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com):**

**12/10/2012 19:56 US October MMA contracts roll over on softer demand**

**12/10/2012 18:38 Maintenance underway at Shell's Texas refinery**

**12/10/2012 16:51 US October truck acetone falls on mixed supply situation**

**11/10/2012 17:39 US manufacturing slows further in Q3 for 9th quarterly decline**

**11/10/2012 17:28 US weekly chemical railcar traffic rises 1.4% year on year**

## FEEDSTOCK PRICES (CONTRACT)

Click for Price History	Price Range	One year ago
<a href="#">CUMENE</a>	FOB SEPUS CTS/LB-3.00 <b>53.00-55.00</b> -3.00	56.00-58.00

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# 14th November 2012 Fatty Alcohols

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ASIA SPOT PRICES						
Click for Price History			Price Range		Four weeks ago	US CTS/LB
<b>C12-14 ALCOHOL</b>						
<a href="#">FOB S.E. ASIA</a>	USD/MT	-40	1430-1480	-50	1450-1520	64.86-67.13
<b>C16-18 ALCOHOL</b>						
<a href="#">FOB S.E. ASIA</a>	USD/MT	-20	1420-1480	-20	1420-1500	64.41-67.13
<b>C8 ALCOHOL</b>						
<a href="#">FOB S.E. ASIA</a>	USD/MT	n/c	1950-2050	n/c	1950-2050	88.45-92.99
<b>C10 ALCOHOL</b>						
<a href="#">FOB S.E. ASIA</a>	USD/MT	n/c	1650-1750	n/c	1650-1780	74.84-79.38
<b>C16 ALCOHOL</b>						
<a href="#">FOB S.E. ASIA</a>	USD/MT	+50	1600-1700	+50	1550-1650	72.57-77.11
<b>C18 ALCOHOL</b>						
<a href="#">FOB S.E. ASIA</a>	USD/MT	-50	1500-1600	n/c	1450-1600	68.04-72.57

**NOTE: for full details on the criteria ICIS pricing uses in making these price assessments visit [www.icispricing.com](http://www.icispricing.com) and click on "methodology".**

### C12-14 prices fall alongside lower feedstocks

The prices of blended mid-cut C12-14 fatty alcohols in southeast Asia declined in line with lower feedstock palm kernel oil (PKO) costs during the week ended 14 November.

The supply of prompt C12-14 fatty alcohol cargoes from several major producers remains low because of ongoing shutdowns at their facilities. Others have committed a significant portion of their November and December shipments, leaving them with limited balance stocks to offer in fresh negotiations. In addition, there was a key buyer heard seeking prompt supplies recently.

However, Asian buyers are still able to cover their immediate requirements for small parcels in iso-tanks at prices below the previous week's published range as sellers have reduced their prices to reflect the weakened feedstock costs.

PKO prices for November delivery in Malaysia fell by around \$20/tonne to \$746/tonne DEL at midday on 14 November, adding to the previous week's decline of \$40/tonne.

In production news, a 100,000 tonne/year fatty alcohols facility in China resumed production on 14 November after shutting down unexpectedly about one-and-a-half weeks ago because of a fire at the unit's oil furnace.

A separate producer in southeast Asia was heard to have taken its facility offline for a scheduled shutdown.

Another southeast Asian producer is likely to restart its plant in the second half of November. Its plant was shut for maintenance at the end of October.

### Blended

The export prices of blended mid-cut **C12-14 fatty alcohols** in southeast Asia fell in line with deals and discussion prices heard in the week.

Around 200 tonnes of material in iso-tanks were booked at the low \$1,500s/tonne CIF SE Asia for second-half November loading.

Offers for shipments to China for second-half December and January loading were largely at \$1,500-1,520/tonne CIF China on a bulk and iso-tank basis. Some buyers may have also received lower offers, at around \$1,480/tonne CIF China.

Buying ideas were at below \$1,500/tonne CIF China.

Offers in iso-tanks were heard available at around \$1,450/tonne CIF NE Asia, but this could not be confirmed.

A few producers indicated their price ideas at around \$1,500/tonne FOB SE Asia for end-December and January shipments, but buyers said such a price was not workable, given the current PKO costs.

In the Chinese domestic market, offers for local product were unchanged at around yuan (CNY) 11,000/tonne DEL. Sales, however, were sluggish. Offers at CNY10,800/tonne DEL were unconfirmed.

China's ethylene oxide (EO) prices were stable at CNY13,000/tonne EXWH in eastern China in the week.

Prices for blended **C16-18 fatty alcohols** were assessed as lower.

A producer has sold some small quantities for December loading at \$1,420/tonne FOB SE Asia.

A separate producer sought prices at \$1,450/tonne FOB SE Asia for similar supplies.

Some December shipments to China were heard offered at \$1,430-1,450/tonne CIF China. Higher-priced cargoes at \$1,480-1,500/tonne CIF China did not draw much interest from buyers.

In the Chinese domestic market, offers for domestic product were stable at around CNY10,800-11,000/tonne DEL.

#### Pure-cut

Prices for pure-cut **C8** and pure-cut **C10 fatty alcohols** were assessed as stable in subdued trade. Some small quantities of C10 fatty alcohols were heard traded at the high end of the published range.

A few producers have increased their price ideas and offers for **C16 fatty alcohols** amid tight supply. They sought prices at \$1,650-1,750/tonne FOB SE Asia. Some cargoes were sold to Asian and non-Asian buyers at that level, although prices at the lower end of the range were seen to be more reflective of the Asian market.

The prices for **C18 fatty alcohols** fell at the low end of the range as some sellers have lowered their offers in order to move their stocks amid persistently weak demand from the anti-oxidant sector.

A deal was heard done at the low \$1,400s/tonne FOB SE Asia. However, this price was deemed low by other market participants.

Several sellers said prices would have to be at least \$1,500-1,550/tonne FOB SE Asia to be workable. Others are hoping for prices at around \$1,600/tonne FOB SE Asia.

In China, an offer for December-loading cargoes was heard at around \$1,550/tonne CIF China.

(\$1 = CNY6.23)

US DOMESTIC RANGE				
<a href="#">Click for Price History</a>	Price Range	Four weeks ago	USD/MT	
<a href="#">C8-11 ALCOHOL</a>	CTS/LBn/c 100.00-107.00 n/c	100.00-107.00	2205-2359	
<a href="#">C12-15 ALCOHOL</a>	CTS/LBn/c 97.00-110.00 n/c	97.00-110.00	2138-2425	
<a href="#">C16-18 ALCOHOL</a>	CTS/LBn/c 95.00-105.00 n/c	95.00-105.00	2094-2315	

Quarterly price spreads remained in place for each of the fatty alcohol tiers given above.

A few offers on Q1 contracts were heard emerging, but clear negotiations and price ideas were not actively under discussion.

Price sentiment remains subdued, with scant evidence of any upward momentum developing.

However, US consumption and demand in each of the tiers appeared to be fairly steady.

Sources close to the short-chain clarified that US housing and construction segments continue to perform significantly below benchmark highs experienced prior to Q4, 2008. However, it was further clarified that wood preservation products and others associated with the housing and construction markets remain key end-use and large consumption units for the short-chain alcohols.

In South America, Brazil-based ethylene oxide (EO) and surfactants producer Oxiteno is expanding ethoxylation capacity because of customer demand.

Major soapers and cosmetics companies are driving this demand, leading to Oxiteno's expansion decision, sources said.

Oxiteno has a firm position in the Mexican market and seek to expand in that region, according to the source.

In September, 2012, Oxiteno announced \$92m investments for the EO expansion. Capacity expansion for the US and Mexican markets was said to be 100,000 tonnes/year.

In April, 2012, Oxiteno acquired a specialty chemicals plant in Pasadena, Texas, with plans to retrofit this facility for certain surfactants.

The Pasadena plant has a capacity of 32,000 tonnes/year, with operations expected to start in 2013, the company said.

## EUROPE

Click for Price History	EUROPE		Four weeks ago	USD/MT
	Price Range			
<a href="#">C12-14 ALCOHOL FD NWE Q4</a>	EUR/MT	- 1350-1600 - 400 300	1750.00-1900.00	1718.46-2036.69

The European fatty alcohols market remains muted this week, with the majority of buyers opting to wait and see what happens to feedstock prices before commencing negotiations.

Palm kernel oil was trading at \$746/tonne DEL south Malaysia at the close of trade on 14 November, compared with \$767/tonne last week. This led to increased hopes among buyers that fatty alcohol values will fall further from current levels.

Mid-cut fatty alcohols remain around €1,300/tonne ex tank Rotterdam. With demand remaining at low levels in Asia, one source in Europe reports material from Asian suppliers being offered at lower levels than from local producers.

European suppliers continue to express concern over their profit margins being tightened, and do not believe mid-cut alcohol prices at this current level are feasible over the long term.

One producer reports that demand for fatty alcohols remains as expected for this time of year. However, with ample material available to buyers in Europe at present, it concedes that strong downward pressure remains on prices.

(\$1 = €0.79)

**This week on ICIS** [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com):

**14/11/2012 05:50 Teck Guan China restarts Rugao fatty alcohol plant after outage**

**10/11/2012 23:32 APLA '12: Customers drive Brazil Oxitenol expansion – Ultrapar CEO**

**07/11/2012 09:53 India's Sterling to start up ethoxylates/MDEA unit in Saudi Arabia**

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9th November 2012

## Oxo-Alcohols (USA)

Editor Frank Zaworski, [frank.zaworski@icis.com](mailto:frank.zaworski@icis.com)

DELIVERED PRICES						
<b>N-BUTANOL</b>						
<b>Click for Price History</b>			<b>Price Range</b>		<b>Four weeks ago</b>	<b>USD/MT</b>
<a href="#">CONTRACT NOV</a>	US CTS/LB	+3.00	<b>90.00-95.00</b>	+3.00	87.00-92.00	1984-2094
<a href="#">SPOT</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>95.00-98.00</b>	n/c	95.00-98.00	2094-2161
<b>ISO-BUTANOL</b>						
<a href="#">CONTRACT NOV</a>	US CTS/LB	+3.00	<b>117.00-120.00</b>	+4.00	114.00-116.00	2579-2646
<a href="#">SPOT</a>	US CTS/LB	+2.00	<b>119.00-122.00</b>	+3.00	117.00-119.00	2623-2690
<b>2-EH</b>						
<a href="#">CONTRACT NOV</a>	US CTS/LB	+3.00	<b>98.00-102.00</b>	+3.00	95.00-99.00	2161-2249
<a href="#">SPOT</a>	US CTS/LB	+2.00	<b>100.00-104.00</b>	+2.00	98.00-102.00	2205-2293
<b>DOP</b>						
<a href="#">CONTRACT NOV</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>100.00-105.00</b>	n/c	100.00-105.00	2205-2315
<a href="#">SPOT</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>104.00-114.00</b>	n/c	104.00-114.00	2293-2513

EXPORT PRICES (FOB)						
<b>Click for Price History</b>			<b>Price Range</b>		<b>Four weeks ago</b>	<b>US CTS/LB</b>
<a href="#">N-BUTANOL</a>	USD/TONNE	n/c	<b>1765-1850</b>	n/c	1600-1725	80.06-83.91
<a href="#">ISO-BUTANOL</a>	USD/TONNE	n/c	<b>1765-1850</b>	n/c	1600-1725	80.06-83.91
<a href="#">2-EH</a>	USD/TONNE	n/c	<b>1850-1900</b>	n/c	1700-1750	83.91-86.18

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### US oxo-alcohols prices increase

The US prices for oxo-alcohols have increased for November, sources said during the week that ended on 9 November.

In response to producer price increases and steady buyer demand, n-butanol contract prices have been assessed 3 cents/lb (\$66/tonne, €51/tonne) higher for November. Prices in the table above reflect market levels before any discounts.

Isobutanol prices for November have been assessed in a range of 117-120 cents/lb.

The prices for 2-ethylhexanol for November are assessed in a range of 98-102 cents/lb, up 3 cents/lb from the prior month.

Traders said that markets for solvents and plasticizers are looking steady to strong as the US economy struggles to grow. Momentum in the automotive and home construction sectors is providing energy to the market.

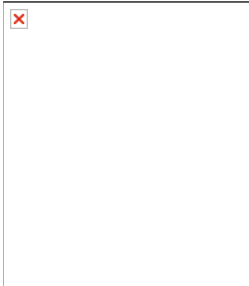
Diethyl phthalate (DOP) prices were assessed by traders as steady in very limited activity. November DOP prices in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America continue to be heard in the range of 105-115 cents/lb FOB US port.

US di-isononyl phthalate (DINP) is trading in a range of 107-111 cents/lb, steady from October levels, sources said.

Diethyl terephthalate (DOTP) was said to be trading in a range of 107-112 cents/lb for October material, a source said. Eastman posted a 4-cent/lb increase for DOTP for October, but has yet to make an adjustment for November deliveries.

Prices for di-propyl heptyl phthalate (DPHP) were heard trading in the range of 117-119 cents/lb, solidly higher from a month earlier.

The non-phthalate plasticizers diethyl adipate (DOA) and triethyl trimellitate (TOTM) were heard talked in the range of 130-140 cents/lb. Producer list prices for these two products are said to be in the range of 166 cents/lb.



Oxea is now marketing its line of non-phthalate plasticizers in the US. The products include Oxsoft-branded DOTP, DOA, TOTM and more. Oxea has 3 production plants in Germany that have a total capacity of 70,000 tonnes/year.

US n-butanol exports in September decreased by 36% from the same month a year earlier, according to data made available by the US International Trade Commission (ITC) on Friday.

US butanol exports fell to 17,072 tonnes in September from 26,609 tonnes in September 2011. Exports fell in September mainly because of decreased product sent to China. September exports also decreased from 21,159 tonnes in August. China at 10,153 tonnes was the major destination for butanol exports, followed by Mexico at 2,730 tonnes, Korea at 1,415 tonnes and Brazil at 1,199 tonnes.

US 2-EH exports fell to 8,653 tonnes in September from 11,963 tonnes in September 2011. September exports also decreased from 9,840 tonnes in August. China at 5,000 tonnes was the major destination for 2-EH exports, followed by Canada at 1,343 tonnes, Chile at 1,200 tonnes and Taiwan at 1,000 tonnes.

The US imported 2,924 tonnes of 2-EH in September, up from 2,013 tonnes in August. Sources of imports included Germany at 1,501 tonnes, Saudi Arabia at 1,040 tonnes and Brazil at 351 tonnes.

#### Feedstock

US refinery-grade propylene (RGP) traded slightly lower this week, while polymer-grade propylene (PGP) traded a few times at 55-56 cents/lb, also down from the previous week. Producers nominated increases of 5-7 cents/lb for November.

(\$1 = €0.78)

**This week on ICIS** [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com)

**09/11/2012 17:16 Worker in critical state after Canada chemical explosion**

**09/11/2012 12:00 BYK represents renewable and biodegradable additive at APCS**

**09/11/2012 12:00 Next generation biocide solution**

**09/11/2012 12:00 Univar and Lambiotte renew their agreement**

**Date: 09/11/2012 12:00 Morrow Renewables begins operations at Turkey Creek Landfill site**

**ICIS has launched a new report covering the European plasticizers market, offering weekly pricing information, including data on feedstock production, trade activities and legislative changes. Request your free sample report at [www.icis.com/plscr](http://www.icis.com/plscr)**

#### FEEDSTOCK PRICES

**Click for Price History**

**Price Range**

**[PROPYLENE C GRADE CONTRACT DEL](#) OCTUS CTS/LB +1.50 **51.50-51.50** +1.50**

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9th October 2012

## Butyl Acetate (USA)

Editor Lane Kelley, [lane.kelley@icis.com](mailto:lane.kelley@icis.com)

CONTRACT PRICES (DEL)					
Click for Price History			Price Range	Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">CONSUMER_SEP</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	77.00-81.00	n/c	77.00-81.00
					1698-1786

DISTRIBUTOR PRICES (DEL)					
Click for Price History			Price Range	Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">DEL_NE/MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	82.00-85.00	n/c	82.00-85.00
					1807.79-1873.93

SPOT PRICES (FOB)					
Click for Price History			Price Range	Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">USG (EXP)</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	72.00-76.00	n/c	72.00-76.00
					1587-1676

**NOTE:** for full details on the criteria ICIS pricing uses in making these price assessments visit [www.icispricing.com](http://www.icispricing.com) and click on "methodology".

### Prices steady, spot CGP slips

US butyl acetate (butac) prices held to their previous ranges in the first full week of October, though higher prices appeared likely.

Sources confirmed published ranges. Increases of 3 cents/lb (\$66/tonne, €51/tonne) for October appeared to be gaining acceptance, but sources said it was too early to say if all customers had agreed to the hikes.



In feedstocks, spot chemical-grade propylene (CGP) slipped to 49 cents/lb from 49.50-50.00 cents/lb a week earlier. US propylene contracts for October settled up by 1.5 cent/lb just under the nominations put forward for the month, according to a market source.

In feedstock n-butanol (NBA), while some producers had issued 3-cent/lb increases for 1 October, several others were holding prices at September levels. Sources said those producers were waiting to see if propylene would move higher.

In Europe, butac prices held steady for the fourth week in a row. Producers said prices would probably hold firm in October because of the small change in prices for feedstock butanol.

(\$1 = €0.77)

### This week on ICIS news:

08-Oct-12 06:12 [EPCA '12: US shale gas effect astonishing – Crotty](#)  
 07-Oct-12 13:08 [EPCA '12: Methanol producer bullish over 5-year market prospects](#)  
 07-Oct-12 18:45 [EPCA '12: US propylene contracts for October rise 1.5 cent/lb](#)  
 06-Oct-12 00:59 [Europe acetic acid Q3 contract range down slightly from Q2](#)  
 03-Oct-12 00:07 [US acetic acid spot price falls \\$45/tonne on larger supply](#)

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6th November 2012

## Ethyl Acetate (USA)

Editor Lane Kelley, [lane.kelley@icis.com](mailto:lane.kelley@icis.com)

CONTRACT PRICES (DEL)					
Click for Price History			Price Range	Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">CONSUMER OCT</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	80.00-84.00	n/c	1763.70-1851.88

DISTRIBUTOR PRICES (DEL)					
<a href="#">DEL NE/MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	82.00-86.00	82.00-86.00	1807.79-1895.97

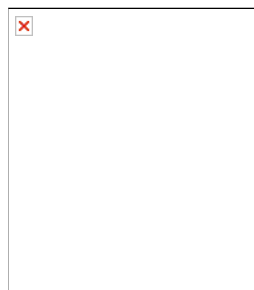
SPOT PRICES (FOB)					
<a href="#">USG (EXP)</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	76.00-80.00	n/c	1675.51-1763.70

**NOTE: for full details on the criteria ICIS pricing uses in making these price assessments visit [www.icispricing.com](http://www.icispricing.com) and click on "methodology".**

### Prices mostly firm; feedstocks tilt down

US ethyl acetate (etac) prices held mostly steady during the first week of November, with sources confirming published ranges.

The most popular prices in the distributor range tended toward the high end, sources said.



Spot prices appeared to be inching higher on the low end of the range, from 76 cents/lb (\$1,675/tonne, €1,307/tonne) to 77 cents/lb, because of a slight increase in demand from the end of the year, according to a producer. But with such a small amount of spot material available, it could not be confirmed.

In feedstocks, US industrial ethanol contracts remained unchanged following a flat settlement for the fourth quarter in the previous week.

US ethylene spot prices dropped slightly, to 54.00-56.25 cents/lb from 54.25-57.625 cents/lb a week earlier, as the focus switched from October to November material. Demand remained soft, with no new supply issues reported. The US October ethylene contract settled down 1 cent/lb at 47.25 cents/lb.

In Europe, etac spot prices dropped by €20/tonne on slow demand and ample supply, sources said.

(\$1 = €0.78)

### This week on ICIS news:

**005-Nov-12 19:58 [Celanese cuts etac price in Asia by \\$20/tonne for November](#)**

**002-Nov-12 11:34 [Europe November etac prices fall despite attempts to ensure stability](#)**

**002-Nov-12 03:48 [Japan's Mitsubishi Chem making more n-butanol since end-October](#)**

**001-Nov-12 12:21 [US ethanol stocks rise as production increases](#)**

**001-Nov-12 09:38 [Valero idles two US ethanol plants because of low margins](#)**

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# 2nd November 2012 Ethyl Benzene (US Gulf)

**Editor** Brian Balboa, [brian.balboa@icis.com](mailto:brian.balboa@icis.com)

**Correction: In the spot price table of the Ethyl Benzene (US Gulf) report dated 2 November 2012, please read ... FOB USG +5.00 66.00-68.00 +5.00 ... instead of ... n/c 61.00-63.00 n/c ... A corrected report now follows.**

SPOT PRICES						
Click for Price History			Price Range		Four weeks ago	USD/MT
FOB USG	US CTS/LB	+5.00	66.00-68.00	+5.00	61.00-63.00	1455-1499

**NOTE: for full details on the criteria ICIS pricing uses in making these price assessments visit [www.icispricing.com](http://www.icispricing.com) and click on "methodology".**

### US EB increases 8.1% on benzene surge

US ethyl benzene (EB) spot prices jumped by 8.1% during the week ended on 2 November, tracking higher benzene.

The US November benzene contract settled at a record high, gaining 50 cents/gal from the previous month's settlement.

Spot benzene prices have been above \$5.00/gal in the US, with a record high deal done at \$5.35/gal in October, mostly on tight supply.

Market players downstream of benzene have said the high prices could lead to demand destruction, but are also likely to lower operating rates as buyers look to avoid stockpiling the material while it is at its record high.

US benzene spot prices fell by 5 cents/gal during the week on the low end but were steady on the high end.

In the ethylene market, US October contracts fell by 1 cent/lb (\$22/tonne, €17/tonne), tracking weaker spot prices throughout the month.

However, the surge in benzene contract values more than outweighed the slight fall in ethylene contracts, pushing up EB spot prices.

US ethylene spot prices fell by 0.250-1.375 cents/lb during the week as the focus switched from October to November material and demand remained soft.

(\$1 = €0.77)

Covering editor: John Dietrich

**This week on ICIS at [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com):**

**02/11/2012 19:45 US October ethylene contracts fall 2.1% on weaker spot prices**

**02/11/2012 16:14 US September petrochemical shipments rise 11.6%**

**02/11/2012 15:34 US styrene producers push for Nov increase on record high benzene**

**02/11/2012 14:26 US adds 171,000 jobs in Oct, but jobless rate ticks up to 7.9%**

**31/10/2012 21:06 US November benzene climbs to record high on tight supplies**

FEEDSTOCK PRICES (NET CONTRACT)						
Click for Price History				Price Range		One Year ago
<a href="#">ETHYLENE</a>	DELIVERED OCT	US CTS/LB	-1.00	47.25		54.00
<a href="#">BENZENE</a>	FOB NOV	USD/GAL	+0.50	4.90-4.90	+0.50	

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9th November 2012

## ICIS pricing Glycol Ethers (US Gulf)

Editor Frank Zaworski, [frank.zaworski@icis.com](mailto:frank.zaworski@icis.com)

CONTRACT PRICES					
Click for Price History			Price Range	Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">BUTYL GLYCOL (EB) DEL NOV</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>83.00-88.00</b>	+3.00	83.00-85.00 1829.83-1940.07
<a href="#">BUTYL DI-GLYCOL (DB) DEL NOV</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>96.00-98.00</b>	n/c	96.00-98.00 2116.44-2160.53
<a href="#">PM DEL NOV</a>	US CTS/LB	+3.00	<b>105.00-107.00</b>	+3.00	102.00-104.00 2314.85-2358.94
<a href="#">PMA DEL NOV</a>	US CTS/LB	+3.00	<b>105.00-107.00</b>	+3.00	102.00-104.00 2314.85-2358.94

SPOT PRICES					
Click for Price History			Price Range	Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">BUTYL GLYCOL (EB) FOB USG</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>83.00-98.00</b>	n/c	86.00-90.00 1830-2161
<a href="#">BUTYL DI-GLYCOL (DB) FOB USG</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>98.00-99.00</b>	n/c	100.00-103.00 2161-2183
<a href="#">PM FOB USG</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>106.00-108.00</b>	n/c	106.00-108.00 2336.90-2380.99
<a href="#">PMA FOB USG</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>106.00-108.00</b>	n/c	106.00-108.00 2336.90-2380.99

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### Glycol ether prices steady to higher

The US prices for glycol ethers settled steady to higher for November because of good demand and price increases that gained acceptance, sources said during the week that ended on 9 November.

The range of November prices for butyl glycol (EB) increased of 3 cents/lb at the high end from October, while di-butyl glycol (DB) held steady from the prior month.

Increases of 3 cents/lb for propylene glycol methyl ether (PM) and PM acetate (PMA) were assessed for November material.



Traders said buying interest is starting to fade as the US holiday period approaches.

US glycol ethers (butyl glycol and butyl di-glycol) exports in September decreased by 31% from the same month a year earlier, according to data made available by the US International Trade Commission (ITC) on Friday.

US exports of butyl glycol (EB) and butyl di-glycol (DB) fell to 12,958 tonnes in September from 18,773 tonnes in September 2011. September exports decreased from 18,164 tonnes in August.

Korea at 2,959 tonnes was the major destination for glycol ether exports, followed by Belgium at 2,497 tonnes, India at 1,467 tonnes and Indonesia at 1,000 tonnes. Other destinations included Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Brazil and Canada.

### Feedstocks



US butanol contract prices firmed for November and were assessed in a range of 90-95 cents/lb before discounts.

US ethylene spot prices were mostly flat in a very slow week. Only one deal was heard while most bids and offers were wide apart.

US refinery-grade propylene (RGP) traded slightly lower this week, while polymer-grade propylene (PGP) traded a few times at 55-56 cents/lb, also down from the previous week. Producers nominated increases of 5-7 cents/lb for November

(\$1 = €0.78)

**This week on ICIS** [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com)

**09/11/2012 17:16 Worker in critical state after Canada chemical explosion**

**09/11/2012 12:00 BYK represents renewable and biodegradable additive at APCS**

**09/11/2012 12:00 Next generation biocide solution**

**09/11/2012 12:00 Univar and Lambiotte renew their agreement**

**Date: 09/11/2012 12:00 Morrow Renewables begins operations at Turkey Creek Landfill site**

FEEDSTOCK PRICES (CONTRACT)						
Click for Price History			Price Range	One year ago		USD/MT
<a href="#">N-BUTANOL</a>	US	+3.00	90.00-95.00	+3.00	96.0-98.0	1984.16-2094.39
	CTS/LB					
<a href="#">ETHYLENE OXIDE</a>	US	-0.80	50.80-60.30	-0.80	56.0-65.5	1119.95-1329.39
	CTS/LB					
<a href="#">C-GRADE PROPYLENE OCT</a>	US	+1.50	51.50-51.50	+1.50	62.50-62.50	1135.38-1135.38
	CTS/LB					

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9th November 2012

### MIBK (USA)

Editor: Larry Terry, [larry.terry@icis.com](mailto:larry.terry@icis.com)

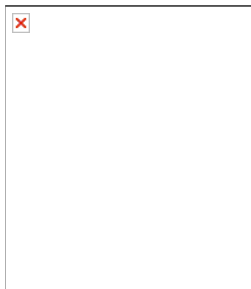
CONTRACT PRICES					
Click for Price History			Price Range		One year ago
<a href="#">DEL E ROCKIES OCT</a>	US CTS/LB	+3.00	113.00-120.00	+5.00	115.00-125.00
					USD/MT
					2491-2646

SPOT PRICES			
Click for Price History		Price Range	USD/MT
<a href="#">EX-TANK</a>	US CTS/LBn/c	100.00-101.00n/c	2205-2227

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#### November contract price efforts continue to see traction

US November methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK) contract price-hike efforts of 3 cents/lb (\$66/tonne, €52/tonne) continued to gain traction during the week that ended on 9 November, but several sources said the gains could fall within the current posted range.



Though all of the major suppliers to the US market proposed identical increases based on tight supply and higher upstream costs, a buyer said one of his suppliers had rescinded its 3 cent/lb increase.

Other buyers, however, said they continued to see increases sought by all suppliers.

One supplier continued to limit production and sales, and sources said its MIBK price was an outlier that would effectively discourage purchases.

Two producers said they would likely continue to limit sales at least through the end of November.

October contract values were recently assessed up by 3-5 cents/lb on similar fundamentals.

#### Feedstock

Refinery-grade propylene (RGP) was down this week at 50.000-50.625 cents/lb versus 51.00 cents/lb a week earlier. Polymer-grade propylene (PGP) traded several times at 55.00-56.00 cents/lb, also down from the previous week.

Contract propylene for November had not yet settled, but some sources said it would likely settle up by 4-5 cents/lb based on spot values. It was nominated up by 5 and 7 cents/lb for the month.

On the US acetone front, truck prices were settling up by 5 cents/lb on tight supply and higher feedstock costs.

US isopropanol (IPA) contract price-hike initiatives of 3 cents/lb for November were beginning to be implemented, sources said, although one producer proposed its increase effective 14 November.

US NYMEX crude futures ended the week up by \$1.21/bbl, or 1.4%, from one week earlier, and up similarly from the previous day on pre-weekend buying that tracked modest gains in the stock market after data showed consumer confidence at a five-year high.

(\$1 = €0.78)

Front-Month Crude Oil Contract

Date	19 Oct	26 Oct	2 Nov	9 Nov
------	--------	--------	-------	-------

DATE	13 OCT 2012	06:12	10:12	14:12	18:12
(US\$/bbl)	90.05	86.28	84.86	86.07	

This week on ICIS – [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com)

09/11/2012 17:16 Worker in critical state after Canada chemical explosion

09/11/2012 11:34 Europe ethylene, propylene November contract prices fall

09/11/2012 11:33 Europe acetone spot prices hold steady on limited material

09/11/2012 11:33 Chemical and energy associations appeal to Obama to relax rules

08/11/2012 18:12 US chemical output flat-lines in Sep amid uncertainties

Click for Price History	FEEDSTOCK PRICES (CONTRACT)				One year ago	
				Price Range		
<a href="#">PROPYLENE</a>	C GRADE	US	+1.50	<b>51.50-</b>	+1.50	62.50-62.50
	OCT	CTS/LB		<b>51.50</b>		
<a href="#">ACETONE</a>	TRUCKS	US	+5.00	<b>63.00-</b>	+5.00	59.00-63.00
	NOV	CTS/LB		<b>67.00</b>		

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9th November 2012

### Mono Propylene Glycol (USA)

Editor leela Landress, [leela.landress@icis.com](mailto:leela.landress@icis.com)

CONTRACT PRICES						
Click for Price History			Price Range		One year ago	USD/MT
<b>EAST OF THE ROCKIES</b>						
FOB PGL OCT	US	n/c	<b>71.00-79.00</b>	n/c	102.00-108.00	1565.28-1741.65
	CTS/LB					
FOB PGUSP OCT	US	n/c	<b>77.00-85.00</b>	n/c	107.00-113.00	1698-1874
	CTS/LB					
FOB PGAF OCT	US	n/c	<b>66.00-76.00</b>	n/c	66.00-76.00	1455-1676
	CTS/LB					

CONTRACT PRICES						
Click for Price History			Price Range		One year ago	USD/MT
FOB EXPORT OCT	US	n/c	<b>63.00-69.00</b>	n/c	63.00-69.00	1389-1521
	CTS/LB					

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#### November MPG steady

US monopropylene glycol (MPG) contract values moving into November are projected to roll over from October levels as price direction in the US has closely followed feedstock propylene values.

Meanwhile, demand for de-icers and antifreeze has been sluggish and some market players said the weather has been warmer than the same period in the previous year.

US propylene spot prices softened this week, while negotiations for the November contract continued.

US propylene producers nominated increases of 5-7 cents/lb for November. The push for higher contract propylene prices stems from increased spot prices for polymer grade propylene (PGP) and refinery grade propylene (RGP) during October. RGP accounts for 60% of the US propylene market.

RGP spot prices rose by 20% in October, ending the month at 51 cents/lb, amid a drop in refinery inventory levels in the past two months and some disruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy late in October.

Propylene oxide (PO) formula-based contracts for October are at 74.5-78.5 cents/lb.

(\$1 = €0.78)

This week on ICIS [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com):

05/11/2012 22:24 Much rides on US elections for chemical producers, refiners

05/11/2012 20:30 Chemical M&A to rebound in 2013 – US banker

02/11/2012 16:14 US September petrochemical shipments rise 11.6%

02/11/2012 15:46 INSIGHT: Weaker Europe, Asia and cracker co-product margins hit in Q3

02/11/2012 15:13 US chemical, plastics sectors add workers in October

FEEDSTOCK PRICES (CONTRACT)						
Click for Price History				Price Range		One year ago
PROPYLENE	C GRADE	US	+1.50	<b>51.50-51.50</b>	+1.50	62.50-62.50
	OCT	CTS/LB				

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6th November 2012

## Aromatic And Aliphatic Solvents (USA)

Editor Brian Balboa, [brian.balboa@icis.com](mailto:brian.balboa@icis.com)

SPOT PRICES - DEL - AROMATIC SOLVENTS						
Click for Price History			Price Range		Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<b>TOLUENE</b>						
<a href="#">US GULF</a>	US CTS/LB	-1.00	<b>61.00-63.00</b>	-1.00	59.00-61.00	1344.82-1388.91
<a href="#">MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>63.00-65.00</b>	n/c	62.00-65.00	1388.91-1433.00
<b>XYLENE</b>						
<a href="#">US GULF</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>60.00-62.00</b>	-3.00	63.00-65.00	1322.77-1366.86
<a href="#">MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>67.00-69.00</b>	n/c	67.00-69.00	1477.10-1521.19
<b>ARO 100</b>						
<a href="#">US GULF</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>64.00-66.00</b>	n/c	62.00-63.00	1410.96-1455.05
<a href="#">MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>69.00-70.00</b>	n/c	69.00-71.00	1521.19-1543.23
<b>ARO150</b>						
<a href="#">US GULF</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>67.00-69.00</b>	n/c	63.00-64.00	1477.10-1521.19
<a href="#">MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>72.00-74.00</b>	n/c	73.00-75.00	1587.33-1631.42

SPOT PRICES - DEL - ALIPHATIC SOLVENTS						
Click for Price History			Price Range		Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<b>HEXANE</b>						
<a href="#">US GULF</a>	US CTS/LB	-2.00	<b>63.00-65.00</b>	-2.00	63.00-64.00	1388.91-1433.00
<a href="#">MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>66.00-68.00</b>	n/c	65.00-67.00	1455.05-1499.14
<b>VM&amp;P</b>						
<a href="#">US GULF</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>65.00-67.00</b>	n/c	65.00-67.00	1433.00-1477.10
<a href="#">MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>66.00-68.00</b>	n/c	66.00-68.00	1455.05-1499.14
<b>MIN SPIRITS HIGH</b>						
<a href="#">US GULF</a>	US CTS/LB	-1.00	<b>52.00-54.00</b>	-1.00	53.00-55.00	1146.40-1190.49
<a href="#">MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>56.00-58.00</b>	n/c	56.00-58.00	1234.59-1278.68
<b>MIN SPIRITS LOW</b>						
<a href="#">US GULF</a>	US CTS/LB	+3.00	<b>62.00-64.00</b>	+3.00	59.00-61.00	1366.86-1410.96
<a href="#">MIDWEST</a>	US CTS/LB	+3.00	<b>63.00-65.00</b>	+3.00	60.00-62.00	1388.91-1433.00

**NOTE:** for full details on the criteria ICIS pricing uses in making these price assessments visit [www.icispricing.com](http://www.icispricing.com) and click on "methodology".

### US aromatics markets move to the downside

US aromatics truck and rail markets were moving to the downside in the week that ended on 6 November, as barge markets were moving lower. The downward sentiment was also fuelled by weaker gasoline prices.

The decline comes a week after one producer lowered its xylene truck and rail price. One distributor have previously said that if toluene barge spot prices remained high, it would look at increasing prices again.

The overall drop in toluene and xylene barge markets also led one distributor to refrain from issuing another price increase.

issuing another price increase.

Most trade sources expect toluene and xylene spot prices to move late in the fourth quarter as refiners look to end-of-year de-stocking.

However, some noted that continued high benzene spot prices could also keep toluene and xylene barge and rack prices from moving lower.

NYMEX WTI crude futures posted light gains at the end of a thinly traded session as the market continued to factor in Hurricane Sandy's impact on the energy infrastructure in the US northeast. Excess crude not being processed owing to refineries being shut down and a fall in refined products' demand because of lower usage will result in a realignment of values.

NYMEX Front-Month Crude Oil Contract

Date	16 Oct	23 Oct	30 Oct	6 Nov
(US\$/bbl)	92.09	86.67	85.68	88.71

#### US Aro 100 and 150 markets unchanged

There was no change for aro 100 and 150 prices in the US Gulf (USG) and midwest during the week, because of weak demand.

The quiet market comes a week after the price spread between the two regions narrowed.

In other related news, the national average price at the pump has now fallen for 24 consecutive days, which is the longest streak since prices dropped 26 days in a row from 15 May through 11 June, the AAA said in its Fuel Gauge Report.

Power outages and distribution issues in the wake of Hurricane Sandy left some delivery terminals and service stations unable to deliver gasoline to stations and consumers.

#### Mineral Spirits markets mixed

US Gulf (USG) and midwest aliphatic markets were mixed during the week.

Hexane and mineral spirits high prices were discussed lower over the week, alongside other weaker aromatics markets.

However, the spread between mineral spirits high and low in the USG widened to 10 cents/lb.

As a result, mineral spirits low prices were slightly up from a week earlier.

Some trade sources said they were seeing strong demand from the paints and coatings markets in early October.

Meanwhile, trade sources previously said that VM&P prices in the midwest may be weaker than the levels in the table above. Further confirmation was still pending.

***This week on ICIS [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com)***

***02/11/2012 23:06 US benzene may stay high through rest of the year***

***02/11/2012 22:04 US November MX contract drops 33 cents/gal on weak demand***

***02/11/2012 15:34 US styrene producers push for Nov increase on record high benzene***

***31/10/2012 21:15 US Q3 MX production slightly down from last year - AFPM***

***31/10/2012 21:06 US November benzene climbs to record high on tight supplies***

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ICISpricing

12th October 2012

### Toluene (US Gulf)

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SPOT PRICES - C GRADE						
Click for Price History			Price Range		Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">FOB BARGES (+)</a>	USD/GAL	n/c	<b>4.10-4.45</b>	+0.10	4.15-4.30	1249.40-1356.06
<a href="#">FOB BARGES (*)</a>	USD/GAL	-0.15	<b>4.15-4.45</b>	+0.10	4.20-4.30	1264.64-1356.06

SPOT PRICES - N GRADE:						
Click for Price History			Price Range		Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">FOB BARGES (+)</a>	USD/GAL	+0.23	<b>4.38-4.50</b>	+0.10	4.20-4.35	1334.73-1371.29
<a href="#">FOB BARGES (*)</a>	USD/GAL	+0.03	<b>4.38-4.50</b>	+0.10	4.25-4.35	1334.73-1371.29

Note: (+) = Price range for the week  
 (\*) = Price range at close of business Friday

**NOTE:** for full details on the criteria ICIS pricing uses in making these price assessments visit [www.icispricing.com](http://www.icispricing.com) and click on "methodology".

#### US n-grade toluene prices up during the week

US nitration-grade (N-grade) toluene spot prices moved higher in the week that ended on 12 October, alongside continued tightness for supplies and strong demand. It was the second consecutive week that toluene prices were up.

Other US aromatics markets also faced tight supply situations. Trade sources attributed the increase in toluene prices to strong demand, as opposed to delayed imports, which have hampered the benzene market.

Demand for commercial-grade (C-grade) toluene was also strong during the week. The c-grade toluene spread with n-grade prices widened from a week earlier. Bids moved lower, but no offers were seen.

C-grade toluene prices had previously been discussed at a 5.00 cent/gal discount to N-grade toluene prices.

Despite the jump in the n-grade toluene market, other aromatics sectors such as mixed xylene (MX) and benzene ended the week slightly lower.

Downstream, US toluene di-isocyanate (TDI) prices were up during the week, driven by feedstock costs and tightening supply.

Industry participants said that TDI hike initiatives were at 8 cents/lb or 10 cents/lb, depending on the producer and starting point, with varied implementation dates according to contract terms, but mostly in September or October.

Market sources said TDI demand is healthy in the US and the rest of the Americas, but weak in Europe and China amid macroeconomic concerns.

#### Overseas toluene markets face tight inventories

In Europe, the toluene market was still characterised by availability concerns, although sources said the tightness was starting to ease. There has been less buying interest in October, with the arrival of imports helping to ease supply some.

Asia's toluene prices were mostly higher following strong demand in the Chinese market for prompt cargoes and firm Chinese domestic prices, alongside tight supply. The increase was also supported by a week-on-week increase in upstream Brent crude futures. The Chinese market saw eastern China domestic prices hit a historical high on severe short supply, because of subdued imports in previous months and low operating rates brought on by weak demand in the downstream sectors.

#### Crude futures up from last week

NYMEX WTI crude futures drifted lower on Friday after the stock market gave back early gains in response to a rise in US consumer sentiment. The market was also pressured by a report from the International Energy Agency (IEA) trimming its oil demand growth outlook and forecasting a gradual easing of oil prices due to increased production, mainly in Iraq and in North America.

For the week, however, WTI rose 2.2%.

Front-Month Crude Oil Contract			
Date	21 Sep	28 Sep	5 Oct
	110.80	110.80	110.80

(USD/USD) 92.09 92.19 09.00 91.00

(\$1 = €0.77)

***This week on ICIS***

***05/10/2012 17:53 Petrobras seeks to offer additional benzene into the US***

***05/10/2012 13:21 Europe October phenol follows benzene down by €28/tonne***

***04/10/2012 06:54 Tight supply, firm aromatics to support Asia's heavy naphtha premiums***

***03/10/2012 22:07 Initial US September styrene contracts firm on feedstocks***

***02/10/2012 18:07 Europe price increases boost October IPEX, rises 4.6%***

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9th April 2010

## MEK (USA)

Editor: Larry Terry, [larry.terry@icis.com](mailto:larry.terry@icis.com)

### DOMESTIC PRICES

Click for Price History			Price Range		Four weeks ago	USD/MT
<a href="#">DEL E ROCKIES</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>77.00-81.00</b>	n/c	77.00-81.00	1697.56-1785.74

### SPOT PRICES

Click for Price History			Price Range		USD/MT
<a href="#">EX-TANK</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>71.00-75.00</b>	n/c	1565-1653
<a href="#">FOB EXPORT</a>	US CTS/LB	n/c	<b>65.00-69.00</b>	n/c	1433-1521

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US methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) contract prices were unchanged during the week ended 9 April, but prices continued to firm at plus 3 cents/lb (\$66/tonnes) on raw material pressure, sources said.

Spot values were also stable for the week.

Demand continued to improve gradually, sources said, and none reported significant supply problems.

But cracker outages in recent weeks have constrained some supply of feedstocks, producers said.

The NYMEX crude contract for May delivery finished down on 9 April for the third consecutive session after peaking at \$87.09 on Tuesday. Although the dollar underperformed versus the euro, pre-weekend selling led by gasoline pressured the rest of the energy complex.

NYMEX crude futures

Date	19 March	26 March	1 April	9 April
(US\$/bbl)	80.68	80.00	84.87	84.92

**This week on ICIS news ( [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com) ):**

**07/04/2010 09:29 Indian Oil sells 30,000 tonnes of naphtha to Shell for H2 April**

**06/04/2010 19:55 US April propylene contracts rise 10%, but spot losing steam**

*06/04/2010 20:56 US Fed sees moderate recovery, subdued inflation*  
*06/04/2010 20:02 US EPA plans to add 16 chemicals to toxics release inventory*  
*06/04/2010 17:12 April IPEX rises 5.9%, returns to Jan 2008 levels*

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